

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
AND THE STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD JOINT MEETING

May 7, 1999
MAG Offices
302 North 1st Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Mayor Neil Giuliano, Tempe, Chairman	Mayor Elaine Scruggs, Glendale
*Mayor Skip Rimsza, Phoenix, Vice Chairman	*Mayor John Keegan, Peoria
Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, Chandler	

* Not present

REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER ATTENDING

Mayor Wayne Brown, Mesa

STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING

John Hudson, Chairman	Bill Jeffers
Jerry Williams, Vice Chairman	Burton Kruglick
Roc Arnett	Ingo Radicke
Katie Dusenberry	

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m. by Chairman Neil Giuliano. Chairman Giuliano welcomed and thanked all for attending the joint meeting. He stated that the purpose of today's meeting is to continue the cooperative efforts between MAG and ADOT and increase understanding of issues.

Chairman Hudson stated that he has high hopes for the outcome of the meeting. He commented that the working relationship of the Regional Council and the State Transportation Board has improved greatly. Chairman Hudson stated that agenda item #3, Revisions to the Existing Planning and Programming Processes, will be discussed in greater detail at a later date after further review of the information.

2. Discussion of Transportation Responsibilities

Chairman Giuliano stated that James M. Bourey, MAG Executive Director, would give a presentation on MAG roles and responsibilities. Mary Peters, ADOT Director, would give a presentation on State roles and responsibilities.

Mr. Bourey gave an overview of the history of MAG's formation and responsibilities as a regional forum for addressing regional issues, as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and as a Transportation Management Area (TMA). He explained the MAG Transportation policy structure and the significant involvement of ADOT in the MAG process. Mr. Bourey stated that MAG uses state of the art modeling tools. He indicated that our region is fortunate that the modeling tools used are consistent throughout the region. Mr. Bourey showed the map of the accelerated regional highway projects for completion by 2007. He mentioned that this project map was developed by MAG and we worked with ADOT late last year on its financing. Mr. Bourey stated that the transportation financing bill was passed that will allow the financing for completion of the highway system. Mr. Bourey showed maps of the regional highway plan, the HOV plan, the local bus plan, the express bus plan, and the light rail transit plan. Referring to a map of residential completions from 1990 through June 1998, he noted the growth related challenges that confront us. Mr. Bourey showed a transportation planning milestone timeline of significant legislation for the Maricopa region. Mr. Bourey asked if there were any questions.

Bill Jeffers asked if the constraints imposed by federal air quality regulations could restrict population increases. He mentioned that it is difficult to meet the requirements without containing growth. Mr. Bourey replied that modeling is done for emissions and for the outcome of growth. Some of the modeling is more sensitive than others, such as particulates, which are more sensitive to traffic. Mr. Bourey stated that we are able to accommodate meeting the regulations now, but it could be a huge challenge in the future. He commented that the agricultural community has been working to reduce dust, but enforcement will need to be stepped up. He also mentioned that a better job of street vacuuming may be needed. Mr. Bourey noted that he does not foresee attainment until 2006.

Katie Dusenberry asked if the standards should be adjusted because of our unique desert environment. Mr. Bourey stated that we have a challenge meeting air quality standards that others do not have. He indicated that there is no problem until the desert is disturbed. Mr. Bourey stated that there has been discussion with the EPA regarding different standards for unique environments. The EPA declined to change the standards, citing health concerns as the reason for the regulations.

Burton Kruglick stated that he is concerned about the mass transportation options that can be offered in such a large metropolitan area to get people to give up their single occupant vehicles. Mr. Bourey stated that it is important to diversify transportation options. He noted that car pools and buses are essential and light rail will help. Mr. Kruglick stated that uniformity of penalties for HOV lane abusers need to be determined. Mr. Arnett stated that a letter went out to the mayors regarding this issue. He said that Jack Tevlin is researching a solution. Mr. Arnett stated that this is a legislative issue.

Ingo Radicke asked about stations to monitor the pollution coming from Maricopa into Pinal and other counties. Mr. Bourey replied that pollution does escape this region and drifts into other areas. He commented that ozone is a particular problem. Mr. Bourey said that drifting of pollution is a big concern and a representative from Pinal County served on the Governor's Air Quality Task Force. Mr. Radicke asked the number of monitoring stations. Mr. Bourey replied that it was approximately 20.

Mr. Kruglick said he was pleased about the effort to study the park and ride concept. He remarked that the public needs to be informed that park and ride facilities are a great asset. Mr. Kruglick volunteered to attend the meetings.

Mary Peters outlined the transportation roles and responsibilities of the State. She gave an overview of ADOT's and the Board's establishment and their powers, duties, and responsibilities. Ms. Peters explained relevant transportation legislation from the 44th Legislature that both passed and failed. Ms. Peters stated that a great deal of cooperative effort went into the passage of the Vehicle Emissions Testing Program bill. She expressed thanks to Mr. Bob Hollis of Federal Highways Administration for his assistance.

Chairman Giuliano thanked Ms. Peters and Mr. Bourey for their presentations.

3. Revisions to the Existing Planning and Programming Processes

Chairman Giuliano stated that more detailed discussion would be had at a later date, but that Ms. Peters would present an update on the planning and programming process discussed at the Gathering at Casa Grande.

Ms. Peters stated that MAG, PAG, ADOT and COGs met in Casa Grande last month. She said that they determined an agreeable process for deciding transportation projects in Arizona. Chairman Giuliano stated that it is important to have the process in place.

Roc Arnett asked if the phrases "multi-modal state planning" and "fully integrated state transportation plan" have the same meaning. Ms. Peters replied that they do. She commented that the integration of modes is important. Ms. Peters mentioned that many forms of transportation are multi-modal. Ms. Peters explained that if there is no way to get from stations to work or home, then a system is not multi-modal nor integrated. She indicated that it is important to have distribution centers close to highways for distribution of goods. HOV lanes and park and ride lots are important to integrate the system. Mr. Arnett asked if it is appropriate to say that ADOT's scope of direction has changed in the past few years to embrace multi-modal projects? Ms. Peters replied that the beginning steps have been taken.

Mayor Wayne Brown expressed appreciation for Ms. Peters's description of multi-modal forms of transportation. He commented that there is a perception that buses and bikes are the only forms of multi-modal transportation. Mayor Brown indicated that moving goods is an important part of the system.

Chairman Giuliano thanked all for their comments and asked if there was any further discussion.

4. Discussion of Statewide Transportation Funding Strategies

Chairman Hudson stated that three committees were formed from the Governor's Vision 21 Task Force to study funding sources, transportation needs, and method of payment for the projects. He commented that they need to come up with a good plan agreeable to the Legislature. Chairman Hudson stated that, with the shortfall of available money, we are not at the point we can satisfy

current needs. Last year, ADOT staff came up with a plan that met immediate needs and found that resources were \$240 million short. Chairman Hudson stated that the plan must meet the needs for all regions.

Chairman Giuliano stated that the MAG Regional Council wants and needs to be a part of the discussion dealing with funding, and particularly, the process. He indicated that additional sources will be required to meet everyone's needs.

Chairman Hudson indicated that the Task Force needs input and recommended that MAG attend all the meetings to assist them. Ms. Peters stated that the more we work together and present a common face to the Legislature, the more successful we will be.

Mayor Elaine Scruggs asked the time frame for recommending state funding. Chairman Hudson replied that the Task Force will develop a funding plan in early fall with an interim report due to the Governor on December 15, 1999. He said the final report will be completed by approximately the end of 2000. Mr. Bourey asked if the recommendation would go to the Legislature at the next session. Chairman Hudson replied that is the goal. He commented that the interim report serves more than one purpose: to provide information on which legislation could be based and for distribution statewide to those interested. Ms. Dusenberry commented that, with the makeup of the next Legislature, a rare opportunity is presented to us to accomplish our goals.

Mayor Brown stated that, as a past chairman of CTOC, he spent time dealing with legislative matters. He mentioned that when CTOC was in danger of elimination, he spent considerable time with ADOT to save CTOC. Mayor Brown stated that the statewide deficit 4-5 years ago was \$9 billion and it is still \$9 billion. He commented that he hopes the Task Force is the answer in making recommendations to the Legislature and the Governor. Mayor Brown stated that cities are concerned with the overall statewide deficit. He commented that the State Board and MAG need to bond together to give significant input to the Task Force.

Mayor Scruggs stated that if the Task Force is not successful, a solution would require the effort of all COGs, MPOs, and ADOT. She indicated that this is a statewide effort.

Chairman Hudson stated that he agrees with Mayor Brown and Mayor Scruggs. He hopes that the Task Force will be successful. Chairman Hudson commented that they have a great opportunity for receiving input, especially on the funding issue. He said that the Task Force will be going throughout the state for public meetings. Mayor Hudson stated that at the first public meeting, the Co-Chairs of the Task Force encouraged the audience to speak, and a lot of input was received. Chairman Hudson commented that if the Task Force is not successful, he hopes that another venue can be found. He indicated that a bond between MAG and the Board is essential and he intends to work toward achieving that goal. We need to convey our message to the Task Force.

Mr. Kruglick stated that the Board is responsible for 15 counties. He commented that more vehicles from Maricopa and Pima counties travel through the rural counties than resident vehicles. Large trucks destroy highways if the roads are not maintained. Residents of Maricopa and Pima counties expect these roads to be maintained for their use. He commented that we need a sharing attitude.

Chairman Hudson stated that the next Task Force public meeting will be held on May 13, 1999 at 5:00 p.m. in Peoria.

Mayor Jay Tibshraeny stated that he appreciated the helpful dialogue today. He commented that the Legislature is hesitant to implement new taxes. Mayor Tibshraeny stated that a joint letter be sent to the Governor expressing our desire for solutions and requesting her support of the recommendations of the Task Force.

Mr. Radicke stated that we need to present a cooperative effort on funding mechanisms, especially gas taxes.

Chairman Giuliano thanked all for participating.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Chairman

Secretary